(ii) Construction of Thalassery-Mahe and Calicut By-passes.

For all the above proposals, alignments have been approved. The construction of Calicut Bypass Phase-I is in progress. Further projects would be taken up in phases subject to availability of funds.

Poor condition of National Highways in North-Eastern Region

4584. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways No. 31, 37, 39 and others which run through the North Eastern States are under deplorable conditions;

(b) whether there are any plan on the part of this Ministry to improve it;

(c) why the construction of roads under World Bank assistance in Assam is being delayed; and

(d) whether his Ministry has any plan to expedite it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. National Highways in the North Eastern Region are maintained in Traffic-worthy condition within the available funds.

(c) and (d) Government of India is responsible for the development and maintenance of Naitonal Highways only. No National Highway in Assam is being constructed under World Bank assistance.

Length of National Highways in Assam

4585. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways targeted since Independence under the development plans for the State of Assam;

(b) whether the said target of National Highways has since been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action being taken or proposed to be taken by Government and allocation made for the above purpose to achieve the target of National Highways under the Ninth Five Year Plan for Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Development of National Highways all over the country is a continuous process. The length of National Highway in the undivided Assam, which was 1011 Kms. in 1947 has over the years been expended and the total length of National Highways in Assam as on 1.4.98 is 2362 Kms. Since First Five Year Plan, an amount of about Rs. 268.62 crores have been allocated for the developmental activities on National Highways in Assam so far.

(d) The 9th Plan has not been finalised and, hence, no details can be given.

Construction of National Highways in Assam

4586. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the amount spent by Government on construction of National Highways during the last three years in the State of Assam;

(b) whether Government propose to make privatisation of construction, improvement and maintenance of National Highways in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the need and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Allocation of funds for the Construction of National Highways is made as a block grant for all the National Highways in a State as a whole and not district-wise. The amount allocated by Government on Construction of National High-

ways in Assam during the last three years is as under:—

1995-96	Rs. 1650.00 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 1212.00 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 1821.00 lakhs

(b) and (c) The policy of private sector participation is in place. However, no such proposal has been received from the Government of Assam.

Cargo Handled by Major Ports

4587. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of cargo handled by major ports in the country during 1997-98, month-wise and port-wise;

(b) whether Government have any plan to modernise the major ports to enhance their cargo handling capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds earmarked for this during 1998-99, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) A statement showing the volume of cargo handled by Major Ports in the country during 1997-98, month-wise and port-wise is at Annexure [*See* Appendix 184 Anneuxre No.]

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1998-99, an outlay of Rs. 726 crores has been earmarked for augmenting the Port capacity which will include creation of new facilities and also modernisation of port infrastruture. The Port-wise details of fund earmarked for modernisation of Major Ports is as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Ports	Outlay
Calcutta	30.00
Mumbai	110.00
J.L. Nehru	70.50
Chennai	170.00
Cochin	10.00
Vizag	50.00
Kandla	65.00
Mormugao	15.00
Paradip	120.00
New Mangalore	30.00
Tuticorin	55.00
TOTAL	726.00

Inadequate Port Facilities to Mother Ships

4588. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that port facilities are not enough for the Mother ships to berth in the ports of the Southern part of the Country;

(b) whether Government are aware of study report on the development of Cochin Port for the Mother ships to berth; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the request of Cochin Port for such development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Container Transhipment Terminal at Vallarpadam—Cochin is proposed to be developed on Build, Operate and Transfer basis and 'Expressions of Interest' for the same have been received by Cochin Port Trust from private parties.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों/पुलों के लिए विश्व बैंक/एशियाई विकास बैंक से ऋण

4589. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान नए राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों/पुलों के निर्माण और सुधार मरम्मत हेतु विश्व बैंक/एशियाई विकास बैंक और अन्य वित्तीय संस्थानों से